

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of September 3, 2004. A request for a one-month extension of time and the requisite fee are included herewith. Accordingly, this amendment is timely filed.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-14 were initially presented. The Office Action of September 3, 2004, rejected claims 1-14. By way of this amendment, claims 1-3, 6, and 11 are amended, and claims 4 and 5 are cancelled. Also, new claims 15-25 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 6-25 are now pending.

Interview Summary Record

On December 6, 2004, the undersigned emailed to Examiner Tieu proposed claim amendments that correspond to the above amendments. On December 7, 2004, the undersigned conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Tieu in which the proposed amendments were discussed. In particular, claims 1, 13, 15, and 20 as set forth in the above amendments and U.S. Patent No. 6,223,061 to Dacus et al. (Dacus) were discussed. The Examiner indicated that he had reviewed the proposed amendments and also reviewed Dacus. In light of this review, the Examiner indicated that amended claim 1, original claim 13, and new claims 15 and 20 were allowable. Applicant did not present any arguments.

In addition to the reasons for allowance discussed in the Interview Summary Record mailed on December 22, 2004, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable for the additional reasons that the subject matter defined by the language of the claims is neither anticipated by, nor would have been obvious when taken as a whole in view of, the art of record.

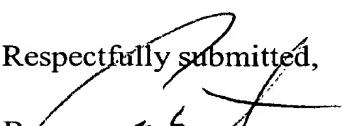
Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the above application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. If there is any matter that the Examiner would like to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below..

Dated: December 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By


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